

THE OPIOID CRISIS

“The Department of State is fully committed to fighting the new threat posed by the proliferation and new trafficking modalities of synthetic drugs. We are driven by the goal of securing the health and safety of American citizens.” - Kirsten D. Madison, Assistant Secretary of State for INL

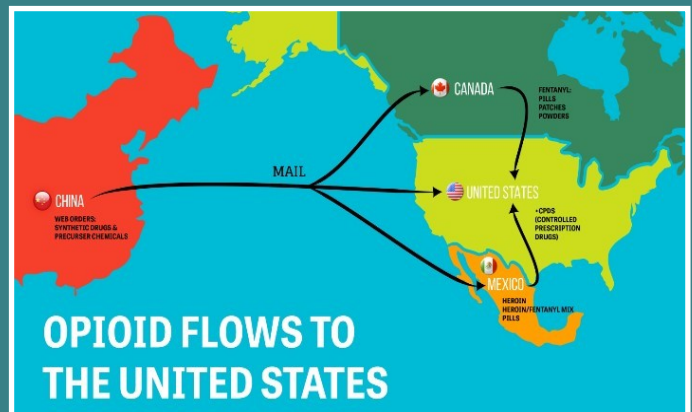


The majority of illicit opioids, namely heroin, come to the United States from Mexico by air, land, & sea. Synthetic opioids such as fentanyl are often delivered by express shipments & international mail from China through online trafficking. The stealth & volume of today's trafficking networks pose a formidable challenge to traditional counternarcotics methods. The international dimensions of the opioid crisis, including transnational criminal operation, heroin shipment from overseas, & the role of online orders & international mail in distributing synthetic drugs, make it not only a U.S. phenomenon, but a global crisis.

Of the 72,000 Americans that died from drug overdoses in 2017, about 29,000 involved synthetic opioids

To meet these challenges, INL is leading efforts to:

- Increase international controls to keep pace with the proliferation of synthetic drugs.
- Expand global capacity to capture and share advance electronic data for international mail parcels destined for the United States.
- Expand technical assistance in illicit substance detection, forensics, and cyber investigation techniques.
- Share U.S. expertise on prevention, treatment, and recovery programs to reduce drug demand in foreign jurisdictions.



**Bureau of International Narcotics and
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